DID YOU HEAR THE BELLS ON THE 17TH?

If you are wondering why all of the church bells of Carbondale, as well as the Hendrick horn, were heard at 7:05 P.M. on December 17, 1981, the answer is given in the text that is given below. This text, written by S. Robert Powell, was read by him to the group assembled in the lobby of Carbondale City Hall at 6:50 P.M. on December 17, 1981.

Carbondale City Hall, designed by Truman I. Lacey and erected under his direction by G. D. Stevens and George H. Tryon, has been the seat of the government of the city of Carbondale since 1894. This building was not erected for the use of one generation or five generations or ten generations. This building was built for all generations, for all time. It is, therefore, the responsibility of every generation of Carbondaleans to maintain and transmit to the following generation a healthy building. It is now our turn to look after City Hall and to make certain that the building that we bequeath to our children is as vigorous as the building that we inherited from our parents. If it is not, it is we who will bear the burden of shame. If it is, it is we who will be credited with having had faith not only in ourselves and in our city, but also in our children and the city that we bequeath to them.

In order to do our part on behalf of this building, therefore, we are gathered here tonight to officially launch a fund raising campaign, whose purpose it is to secure the funds necessary to repair the clock, the outside walls, and the roof of Carbondale City Hall. The Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall is, be it known, an independent group of Carbondale citizens and friends of this building. We are not affiliated with any agency of the city, county, or state government. Our only allegiance is to this building. The funds that we have already raised, as well as the funds that we will ultimately raise in order to achieve our objectives, are completely under our control. These funds will be used for one purpose and for one purpose alone--to restore Carbondale City Hall to its former beauty.

Our first objective is to repair the clock in the tower. For many years, as we all know, time has stood still on the City Hall clock. Tonight, at the beginning of this fund raising campaign to restore this building, at 7 P.M., the bell in the tower will ring seven times and the lights behind the four clock faces in the tower will come on. We are indebted, in particular, to seven outstanding citizens of Carbondale for making this possible: Tom Brennan, who will cause the tower bell to ring; George Wallis, who provided the bulbs for the inside of the clock-level of the tower; John Buberniak, who repaired